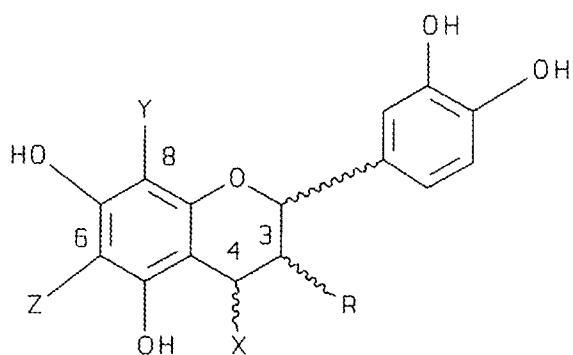


Amendment to the Claims:

1-74 (canceled)

75. (withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing an NO-responsive disease or disorder by administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising (i) a polyphenol compound of formula A_n, wherein n is 1 or 2 to 18 and A has the following formula:



R is 3-(α) - OH, 3-(β), 3-(α)- O-saccharide, 3-(β)-O-saccharide, 3-(α)-O-C(O)-R', or 3-(β)-OC(O)-R';

bonding between adjacent monomers takes place at positions 4, 6 or 8;

a bond to a monomer in position 4 has alpha or beta stereochemistry;

X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of A, hydrogen, and a saccharide moiety, with the proviso that as to at least one terminal monomer, bonding of the adjacent monomer thereto is at position 4 and optionally Y = Z = hydrogen; and

wherein the saccharide moiety is a mono- or di-saccharide moiety and may be optionally substituted with a phenolic moiety and R' may be an aryl or heteroaryl moiety optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group; and

salts, derivatives and oxidation products thereof;

and (ii) L-arginine in a combined amount effective to modulate nitric oxide and/or NO synthase upon ingestion by a human or a veterinary animal,

wherein the L-arginine is in the amount of at least 1mg/g;

with the proviso that when the compound is in the form of a cocoa ingredient, the amount of L-arginine is greater than that provided with a cocoa ingredient.

76. (withdrawn) The method of claim 75, wherein the NO-responsive disease and/or disorder is selected from the group consisting of: hypertension, cardiovascular disease, renal disease, and impaired cognitive function.
77. (withdrawn) The method of claim 76, wherein the composition is a food.
78. (withdrawn) The method of claim 76, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical.
79. (Currently amended) A non-chocolate food product for human or veterinary animal consumption comprising (i) a cocoa polyphenol in the amount of at least 1 mg/g and (ii) L-arginine in the amount of at least 10 mg/g, with the proviso that when the cocoa polyphenol is provided within a cocoa ingredient, the amount of L-arginine is greater than that provided with the cocoa ingredient; and wherein the non-chocolate food product comprises up to 3 g of cocoa polyphenol per unit dose and is effective to induce vasorelaxation in a human or a veterinary animal.
80. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is provided within a cocoa extract.
81. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 80, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 3 mg/g.
82. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is provided within a cocoa ingredient.
83. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.25 mg/g.
84. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.5 mg/g.
85. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 2 mg/g.
86. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 5 mg/g.

87. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, comprising at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of peanuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, and soy beans.

88. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, which is a peanut-based food product.

89. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 88, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 3 mg/g.

90. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 88, wherein the peanut-based food product is peanut butter.

91. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 88, wherein the peanut-based food product is peanut brittle.

92. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 79, wherein the food product is a pet food.

93. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 92, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is provided within a cocoa extract.

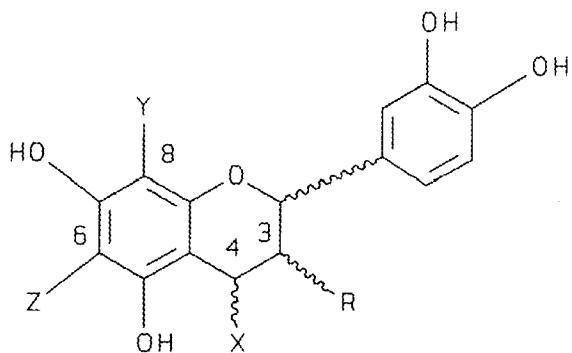
94. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 92, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.25 mg/g.

95. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 92, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.5 mg/g.

96. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 92, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 2 mg/g.

97. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 92, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 5 mg/g.

98. (Currently amended) A non-chocolate food product for human or veterinary animal consumption comprising:
(i) a polyphenol compound of formula A_n in the amount of at least 1 mg/g;
wherein n is 1 or 2 to 18 and A has the following formula:



R is 3-(α) - OH, 3-(β), 3-(α)- O-saccharide, 3-(β)-O-saccharide, 3-(α)-O-C(O)-R', or 3-(β)-OC(O)-R';

bonding between adjacent monomers takes place at positions 4, 6 or 8;

a bond to a monomer in position 4 has alpha or beta stereochemistry;

X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of A, hydrogen, and a saccharide moiety, with the proviso that as to at least one terminal monomer, bonding of the adjacent monomer thereto is at position 4 and optionally Y = Z = hydrogen; and

wherein the saccharide moiety is a mono- or di-saccharide moiety and may be optionally substituted with a phenolic moiety and R' may be an aryl or heteroaryl moiety optionally substituted with at least one hydroxyl group; and

salts, derivatives and oxidation products thereof;

and (ii) L-arginine in the amount of at least 10 mg/g;

with the proviso that when the cocoa polyphenol is provided as a cocoa ingredient, the amount of L-arginine is greater than that provided with the cocoa ingredient; and wherein the non-chocolate food product comprises up to 3 g of cocoa polyphenol per unit dose and is effective to induce vasorelaxation in a human or a veterinary animal.

- 99. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 98, comprising at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of peanuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, and soy beans.
- 100. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 98, which is a peanut-based food product.
- 101. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 100, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 3 mg/g.

102. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 100, wherein the peanut-based food product is peanut butter.
103. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 100, wherein the peanut-based food product is peanut brittle.
104. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 98, wherein the food product is a pet food.
105. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 104, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.25 mg/g.
106. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 104, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.5 mg/g.
107. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 104, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 2 mg/g.
108. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 104, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 5 mg/g.
109. (Previously presented) A non-chocolate food product comprising a cocoa polyphenol in the amount of at least 1 mg/g and L-arginine in the amount of least 100 mg/g.
110. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 109, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.25 mg/g.
111. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 109, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 1.5 mg/g.
112. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 109, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 2 mg/g.
113. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 109, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 3 mg/g.
114. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 109, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 4 mg/g.
115. (Previously presented) The non-chocolate food product of claim 109, wherein the cocoa polyphenol is in the amount of at least 5 mg/g.